

## New Fiction

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conclusion that the change in customs is not really very horrifying. The girls of the story are at least open to no very serious indictment. But the whole book is a superficial affair; good as far as it goes but tenuous.

ROPE. By Holworthy Hall. Dodd, Mead & Co.

**G**IVE the blue law fanatic rope enough and he will end by hanging himself is the lesson of this joyous, satirical, amusing story. But the process, it appears, may also be rather painful to the innocent bystander, to say nothing of the really guilty parties. The very clever gentleman who writes under the name of Holworthy Hall is having a happy time in this, but he is also rather in earnest about it. It is, in part, the tale of a young man who began his career not knowing how many dimes there are in a dollar, but who attained enlightenment. He has an uncle; also a dangerous aunt. A part of his inheritance is a moving picture theater, out of which he must make \$10,000 a year in order to gather in the rest of his fortune. Failing that, the estate goes to the dreadful aunt, who is a Prohibitionist and blue law fanatic. The story involves her machinations, with the aid of her unfortunate husband, who is a professional rascal. It won't do to spoil the surprises by telling too much of the plot. The humor of it all is real, but of the materialistic order: the smart young man who outwits the schemers, trick against trick, in homage to the great god Thrift.

THE HOUSE OF DELUSION. By Rupert Sargent Holland. George W. Jacobs & Co.

**W**HEN one is honestly able to say of a mystery story that it compels the reader's attention when he has once dived into it it amounts to an honorable mention among the many. That is all one need ask of such a tale—that harmless drug for the overtaxed mind, eager for escape from daily annoyances. If, in addition, the story provides a little real character drawing, a good bit of scenery and—especially—some novelty in its necessary crime, the author has given full measure. This book fills all these requirements excellently. It contains a "Golden Uncle" who returns to his American nieces and nephews after many years spent in Italy, bringing with him a friend who has been almost a brother to him, and also a noteworthy body servant, Antonio. Things begin to happen when he joins his welcoming young relatives. Crimes—more than one—are duly perpetrated, but we shall not tell what they are. They make it necessary to call in the superdetective,

who doesn't do very much unraveling until the thing is ready to solve itself, but who is not a travesty. Perhaps it will be enough of a hint as to plot and mystery to quote that, "he was a strange man. . . . He spent too much time studying the crimes of the old Italian nobles, crimes that were done in the Dark Ages." That is good bait.

THE DRIVER. By Garet Garrett. E. P. Dutton & Co.

**M**R. GARRETT is one of the few purveyors of popular fiction who can write about Wall Street without making technical mistakes, as he served an apprenticeship in financial writing long before turning to fiction of a more confessedly romantic character. His magnates, railroad wreckers, bankers and hangers-on are drawn from the living model. If the drawing is a bit lurid, heavily accentuated, it is nevertheless not a caricature. The plot of this story deals with "big business," the scientific manipulation of securities and the adventures of a financial "Napoleon." In style it is somewhat inflated and its technic approaches that of the melodrama, but there is life in it.

THE RIDDLE OF THE SPINNING WHEEL. By M. E. and T. W. Hanshaw. Doubleday, Page & Co.

**S**COTLAND YARD mystery of the tried and tested variety—one can hardly say anything but the conventional thing about a conventional detective story. The test is—does it mystify and hold the attention? This does, very efficiently. It opens with a murder, committed properly, according to schedule. The daughter of the murdered man summons the famous Scotland Yard sleuth "Cleck" and the chase begins, with clever distribution of false clues and a really neat problem to solve. It is amusing, and its characters are alive enough for the purposes of the story.

THE SUBCONSCIOUS COURTSHIP. By Berta Ruck. Dodd, Mead & Co.

**B**ERTA RUCK'S solid popularity rests upon her ingenuity in inventing situations that are a bit odd; not too odd, but just enough so to give room for rather obviously humorous expansion.

Clever is the right label for them. This one is, like its predecessors, mildly entertaining. Its heroine is a young woman of wealth who is annoyed by the eagerness with which her relatives, friends and lovers desire to arrange things for her and who

seeks protection in an unusual arrangement with a young man on a business basis. But of course it turns into a romance of the not hitherto unheard of variety. The dialogue is good, and the story moves.

## The Lighthouse Service

SENTINELS ALONG OUR COAST. By F. A. Collins. The Century Company.

**T**HE United States Lighthouse Service appears to be about the most perfect of our Government's activities, for Congress never investigates it, no one ever brings any charges against it for inefficiency or extravagance. It presents the paradox of being a happy country yet

designs have been improved and multiplied in form and sketches as clearly as may be the modern magic presented in the latest types of unattended lights that turn themselves on and off by no other medium than the light of the sun or the darkness of clouds or the night.

The reader will find here descriptions of life aboard a lighthouse tender and a light-ship, the language of the buoys, what a service station looks like and the work carried on in one of them, how the radio has been developed in guiding ships into port and giving them their "positions" at sea, how the fog menace is fought, and all about the sentinels of the Great Lakes and our inland waters. A special chapter is also given to the Coast Guard as a part of the work of protecting ships and their crews from the perils of coastwise navigation. There may be times when we may doubt the efficiency of some of our Government's bureaus and departments; but after reading this wholesome and satisfactory narrative record we can have nothing but admiration for the work of the officers and men of the lighthouse service.



Francis Arnold Collins, Author of "Sentinels Along Our Coast."

having a glorious history, a thing the ancient phrase denied by implication. Just what that history of accomplishment is Mr. Collins tells in his entertaining and factful book, which describes lighthouses from the earliest times, tells how their

Owen Wister's long looked for volume of experiences and impressions in France during and since the war needs only to be announced. "Neighbors Henceforth" is the title of the book and it aptly expresses Mr. Wister's attitude and motive. He says: "The plight of France, the deed of Germany, and the international destiny of the United States are the main themes of this volume, which closes a series of three, begun with 'The Pentecost of Calamity,' followed by 'A Straight Deal.'"

## The Gypsy Trail

NIGHTS AND DAYS ON THE GYPSY TRAIL. By Irving Brown. Harper & Brothers.

**"T**HE Gypsy trail," says Prof. George E. Woodberry in his introduction to this fascinating volume, "is magnetic with that bewildering joy—the 'joy of life.'" Mr. Brown is not another Borrow, but he has caught much of the glamour and romance of the gypsy life, chiefly that of the Spanish gypsies, and has reproduced it eloquently. He is, indeed, something of a born gypsy himself—one must be to understand and interpret them—and he has lived among them, not as a sociological investigator or amateur seeker after thrills, but practically as one of them. Hence the vividness and impressing quality of his narrative.

It is, for the most part, a straightforward story; told simply, with a fine eye for the picturesque in detail and for the mass effect as well. It is, perhaps, a slightly deodorized account, but he does not over idealize the proud, secretive, mysterious folk whom he shows on the road and in town, at Cadiz, Jerez, Seville, and even "in the shadow of the jail," and also at some length in the ranks of the bull fighters. The lure of the picaresque is unfailing to competent hands: wine and song, the dance, poverty, dignity and independence, faith to each other, generosity and an unashamed readiness to prey upon the "ingres" or non-gypsy; it makes a brilliant, effervescent and delectable mixture.

Mary  
Roberts  
Rinehart



# THE BREAKING POINT

A splendid new novel by this distinguished author

First Edition 100,000 Exhausted  
Second Edition on the Way Out\*  
Third Edition on the Way In\*\*

\* To the Booksellers  
\*\* From the Bookbinders

DORAN  
BOOKS